

CLAIMS

1 An anionic surfactant particle for use in a laundry detergent composition, the particle having a total anionic surfactant content of at least 95 wt% and comprising linear alkylbenzene sulphonate (LAS) and primary alcohol sulphate (PAS) in a weight ratio of from 5:1 to 1:3.

2 An anionic surfactant particle as claimed in claim 1, having a total anionic surfactant content of at least 98 wt%.

3 An anionic surfactant particle as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the ratio of LAS to PAS is within the range of from 3:1 to 1:2.

4 An anionic surfactant particle as claimed in claim 1, having an inorganic salt content not exceeding 2 wt%.

20 5 An anionic surfactant particle as claimed in claim 1, wherein the PAS has an average alkyl chain length within the range of from C₁₀ to C₁₆, preferably from C₁₂ to C₁₄.

6 An anionic surfactant particle as claimed in claim 1, 25 wherein the anionic surfactants are in sodium salt form.

7 An anionic surfactant particle as claimed in claim 1, which is the form of a flake.

30 8 A process for the preparation of an anionic surfactant particle as claimed in claim 1, which comprises the steps of

(i) reacting LAS acid with sodium carbonate to form sodium LAS and water,

(ii) admixing PAS in any suitable form,

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(iii) drying the resulting mixture to a solid form, and

(iv) comminuting to form particles.

10 9 A particulate detergent composition comprising an anionic surfactant particle as claimed in claim 1, in admixture or conjunction with one or more other solid detergent ingredients.

15 10 A particulate detergent composition as claimed in claim 1, which comprises

(a) a base powder composed of composite granules comprising surfactant and builder,

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(b) anionic surfactant particles as claimed in claim 1,

(c) optionally postdosed detergent ingredients.

25 11 A particulate detergent composition as claimed in claim 10, having a total anionic surfactant content of at least 20 wt%.

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